

Newark  
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*"Building Quality In Housing Through Partnership"*



# NEWSLETTER

"Building Quality in Housing Through Partnership"

Vol 4, No. 1

## NHA SCORES 91 ON PHMAP!!

"HIGH PERFORMER"

**H**onor Roll, Dean's List, Magna Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude.

Whatever you wish to call it, the Newark Housing Authority (NHA) scored a 91 on the Public Housing Management Assessment Program (PHMAP) report of the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year ending March 1997, and is now designated "a high performer" by HUD. The NHA received the news in a letter to NHA Chairperson Doris McCray Crank from Carmen Valenti, HUD's New Jersey director, office of public housing.

Moreover, the NHA scored 100 percent on the modernization component of the PHMAP, and is also designated as "a mod-high performer." It makes the third consecutive year that our Modernization Department (MOD) has received a perfect score.

"The NHA is congratulated on achieving the status of high performer," wrote Mr. Valenti, adding that "a housing authority designated a high performer will be afforded incentives in several program areas as well as be relieved of specific HUD requirements."

Commenting on the NHA's unprecedented score, Ms. Crank said:

"Executive Director Harold Lucas and his staff are to be commended for this extraordinary achievement. It must be

emphasized that before Mr. Lucas became the Executive Director five years ago, the NHA had never passed PHMAP and was constantly singled out as a 'troubled' housing authority.

"So to receive this score and now be known as a high performing housing authority is remarkable. It makes all of us quite proud."

Mr. Lucas credited the persistence of Assistant Executive Directors Johnson Abraham and Robert Graham in helping to achieve the 91 score.

"The AED's strongly monitored their respective staffs to insure that the requisite work was being done correctly," said Lucas.

"They did their due diligence and our directors, managers and supervisors followed suit to get the work done. I want to thank all the NHA employees for doing their jobs and helping us become a high performing housing authority," he continued.

"You should know that the NHA has evolved from an agency of ridicule to become one of the most highly respected public housing authorities in the country."

"Now with our 91 score and new designation, rest assured that our reputation will be even higher on the image meter."

"We can hold our heads high and be proud of what we have accomplished," concluded Lucas.



Robert Graham, Assistant Executive Director



Donald Moore, Director of Modernization



Johnson Abraham, Assistant Executive Director

## From the Executive Director



**A**mong the various pictures and stories elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a photo of Jerome Greco, of First Union Bank, presenting me with a \$202,600 check for the NHA's Scholarship Foundation, as well as a shot of our most recent scholarship recipients.

You also will see a photo from the Ms. Essex County Housing Authority Pageant, which was an extraordinary

experience and one of the most memorable events I have ever been a part of. Nearly six months of dedication and commitment — of following the rules of punctuality, attendance, behavior, participation, and community service — culminated in a final program where the production values were outstanding, superbly organized and magnificently performed by the 21 finalists from Newark, East Orange, Orange and Irvington housing authorities.

Our scholarship program and events like the pageant are not just showcases for the talent of our young housing residents, but demonstrate what positive experiences, combined with genuine nurturing and caring, can produce.

First Union Bank's generous contribution to the NHA scholarship program represents its commitment to our resident students. Not only will the contribution positively impact the scholarship foundation's endowment, but also the lives and futures of our young residents.

The Newark Housing Authority (NHA) Scholarship Foundation is the first such organization established by a public housing authority in New Jersey. Since its founding in 1988, the NHA has afforded 144 young people who live in our complexes the opportunity to pursue higher education and achieve their career goals. This endeavor is made possible by the generous support of NHA employees with some corporate assistance.

The \$202,600 from First Union will go a long way toward making sure that people like Teneya Harrison, an Oscar Miles Village resident and one of Central High School's outstanding seniors, get a decent shot at higher education.

We do a lot of things here at the Housing Authority, including maintaining safe, decent and affordable housing. But it's more than bricks and mortar and cleaning up common areas. It's also about our young people like Teneya. They are our infrastructure and our future.

As Mr. Greco, in presenting the check on behalf of Anthony P. Terracciano, president of First Union Corporation, stated:

"Education is a huge priority. We have to invest in our young people and this (donation) represents an investment in the community."

So true. The return on this investment is incalculable, beyond any rate Wall Street could ever imagine. The children are our future and they will lead the way if supported and taught well.



Jerome Greco, executive vice president of First Union Bank, presents NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas with a check for \$202,600 which will be donated to the NHA Scholarship Foundation to benefit students like Teneya Harrison (left), a senior at Central High School with a 3.7 grade point average, who has aspirations of pursuing higher education at Spelman College.

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## GROUNDBREAKING TO COMPLETION IN SEVEN MONTHS



**W**hen the ground-breaking picture of Executive Director Harold Lucas, Mayor Sharpe James, Newark Housing Authority Board Chairman Rolando Velazquez and Councilman Donald Tucker was taken at the end of January, launching the construction of 94 new townhouses in the city's east ward, it took the NHA only seven months to complete and close on the first 31 units depicted here. Another 31 units were completed and closed on in late October.

Mayor James applauded the NHA for "bringing about a housing renaissance and changing our neighborhoods," adding, "we're transforming one of Newark's oldest neighborhoods and building low-income housing, but never poor housing. This new housing looks like market-rate housing and it gives dignity and pride to the residents."



## NHA IMPLODES LAST OF SCUDDER HOMES



NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas (2nd from left), NHA Chairperson Doris McCray Crank, NHA Commissioners Gloria L. Cartwright and Ida Clark and Councilman George Branch prepare to push the plunger to collapse the two remaining buildings at Scudder Homes.

The year was 1963 and involved 1,428 families who resided in seven 13-story buildings spread across several acres in the Central Ward. That's when the storied history of Scudder Homes began. Nearly 34 years and two remaining towering buildings later, as well as a newly-constructed complex where former Scudder Homes residents now call home, the Newark Housing Authority (NHA) resumed its program of changing the face of public housing in Newark by razing the towering structures with 1,100 pounds of dynamite, signaling an abrupt end to the era that was Scudder Homes.

"This is another great day and an opportunity to make history in the city of Newark," said NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas at the start of the final implosion of the last two high-rise buildings this past June, completing a process that had its genesis in 1987.

"Four buildings were demolished in 1987 and we stand here today and proudly witness the 150 townhouse homes that the NHA constructed on the site in 1995," said Mr. Lucas.

"Those homes, which are as beautiful as they were when we dedicated them in August of 1995, stand as a testament to our residents who endured some tough times but trusted us to keep our pledge to build the new homes," Mr. Lucas added.

"Moreover, our residents have further enhanced the Oscar E. Miles complex with their green thumbs by planting flowers and shrubs," Mr. Lucas said. "There is no graffiti at Oscar Miles Village, which demonstrates that when you give people an opportunity, things can work. And they truly have made it a leading part of the community."

Mr. Lucas noted that the NHA, which is recognized as the national leader in the transformation of public housing, has constructed nearly 1,000 new townhouse units throughout the city in the last three and one-half years.

"We have developed a strong partnership with our residents, with city and state governments and with HUD in creating this historic change in public housing, and we are quite proud of what we have accomplished together," Mr. Lucas also congratulated the NHA staff for the hard work they have done. He added, "It's not just about taking down high-rises and replacing them with townhouses; you have to work with the problems of the people. And there's a lot we need to do to make public housing better and to make the city of Newark better."

"What we have developed and will continue to develop is housing that parents and children, especially the children, can and will be proud to reside in — and call it home!"

"We are going to see to some remarkable things happen at the NHA in the next millennium," said Chairperson Doris McCray Crank who spoke on behalf of the NHA Board of Commissioners. "Under the leadership of Harold Lucas, and with the assistance of the Board of Commissioners and staff and resident input, we will ensure that our housing exemplifies what we would like to see in our fair city."

"It is good to be a resident of the Central Ward and to be a part of the new community that the NHA is developing," said Essex County Freeholder Blonnie Watson. "This implosion is not a death, rather, it represents new life. Time changes and this is a good change," she said, while encouraging the authority "to continue to keep keeping on."

Representing the Newark Municipal Council, Central Ward Councilman George Branch noted, "We would not be here if not for Harold Lucas who had the vision to change public housing." He also proudly declared, "There will be more development occurring in the Central Ward."

Mercer Wrecking, Inc. of Trenton, NJ, was the demolition contractor and Controlled Demolition Incorporated of Phoenix, MD, provided the explosives expertise.



From a panoramic view of the city's landscape, in an instant the steel and concrete buildings crumble into debris.

## WALSH HOMES \$50 MILLION HOPE VI PROJECT ON SCHEDULE



NHA Commissioner Rolando Velazquez, Executive Director Harold Lucas and Mayor Sharpe James signal for the demolition to begin at Building #9 at the Walsh Homes site.

The Newark Housing Authority (NHA) recently designated First Connecticut Consulting Group, Inc. of Norwalk, Conn., as the developer to construct 198 new townhouse units at the NHA's Archbishop Walsh Homes under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPE VI Urban Revitalization Demonstration Program.

This project began several months ago when the NHA, in a departure from its implosion format for the demolition of high-rise buildings, used the wrecking ball/heavy equipment methodology to demolish six buildings on the north side of the 44-year-old complex. This method has proved to be efficient and cost-effective in the preparation of land for new townhouse construction.

The program at Walsh Homes is the culmination of a significant collaborative partnership between the NHA and Walsh Homes' residents begun four years ago when the NHA was awarded a \$50 million grant to revitalize the complex.

"When former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros brought his entire senior staff to Walsh Homes to present us with a \$50 million check for the rehabilitation of Walsh under the HOPE VI program, we were considering rehabilitation for the complex under HUD's guidelines," said NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas. "But the residents saw that the NHA was actually constructing new townhouses in the city and asked if we could do the same at Walsh."

"We agreed, and with the full cooperation and support of the residents, we worked with HUD, which added flexibility to the HOPE VI Program, to modify our grant proposal from rehabilitation to demolition/new construction."

"The 198 new units on the north side of the twelve-building complex will house residents who now live in the south side and residents who have been temporarily relocated into NHA units and Section 8 apartments," said Mr. Lucas. "We will then take down the remaining buildings on the south side and build new townhouses on that site."

"This represents new hope and opportunity," said Mayor Sharpe James. "We have kept our word and our promise, and when this (project) is completed, you will see a proud community of families. There will be no difference between market-rate housing and public housing. Because if you build quality housing, people will take care of them and beautify their homes."

The NHA staff has initiated a needs assessment of 192 families as part of its community and supportive services component of the HOPE VI Program. The staff is currently interviewing families to ascertain how they can improve the quality of their lives and referral and other services are provided to augment the endeavor.



Under the force of the wrecking ball, Building #9 disintegrates into rubble, and the land is cleared for the construction of new townhouse units.

## HOUSING PAGEANT A HUGE SUCCESS!

In a first-ever venture, the Newark Housing Authority, in association with New Friends of Symphony Hall and the Newark Tenants Council, Inc., launched the official Ms. Essex County Housing Authority Pageant. The enormous effort began with the recruitment of young ladies, 13 to 16 years of age, who live in the Irvington, East Orange, Orange and Newark housing authorities.

From a pool of 432 initial applicants, 21 young ladies began a period of intense training and exposure to various enrichment opportunities. For example, the contestants received 20 rigorous weeks of life skills workshops on topics that ranged from teenage pregnancy and peer pressure to communications, job skills and etiquette tips. They also were required to perform community service and participate in field trips to various cultural and historical landmarks.

Harold Lucas, executive director of the NHA, which financed the pageant, said that it was particularly important to reach out to girls in public housing because they often have less self-esteem and fewer mentors than boys.

"We need to get them while they're still vulnerable and teach them some of the life skills they need to know," said Mr. Lucas. "We wanted to give them a program that shows alter-

natives to the negative lifestyle they are exposed to."

During the four months of preliminary competitions and workshops, the girls were assigned advisors to help them rehearse and shop for gowns. As part of the experience, they were introduced to various restaurants and wrote reviews for the pageant newsletter. They also learned how to prepare a three-course meal, fold napkins and make centerpieces at a local restaurant. Within this period, the girls were judged on poise, charm and attendance.

During the finals, each contestant answered a series of questions posed by a panel of judges. The following day the ladies recited poetry and sang songs for a different set of judges. As the culminating activity, they were judged on their gowns and three dances they performed together.

Jaquita Evans, of the NHA's Chadwick Avenue Village complex, captured the Ms. Essex County Housing Authority Pageant. Larrita Jackson, of NHA's Baxter Terrace, and Lakeedah Greene, of the NHA's Bergen Street complex, garnered the first-runner and second runner-up places, respectively.



After completing several months of rigorous training and workshops in preparation for the pageant, the winners look radiant in their beautiful gowns. They are (l. to r.) Lakeedah Greene, second runner-up; Jaquita Evans, Ms. Essex County Housing Authority, and Larrita Jackson, first runner-up.

## CITY OF NEWARK AND NHA SPONSOR CLEANUP PROJECT



Dense Francis and Elena Dellos Santos (left photo) and Crystal Boykins (right photo), residents of Pennington Court, spruce up the grounds near the complex as part of their participation in the "Partners In Pride" Program.

## Neighborhood Pride Program Yields Positive Results

Throughout the sweltering summer days, the casual observer witnessed the results of their diligence. Sufficiently supplied with the accouterments of the job and donning their identifiable blue tee-shirts emblazoned with the Newark Housing Authority (NHA) logo, they purposefully address a major quality of life issue that is immediately conspicuous to residents and commuters alike.

Approximately 246 NHA residents are improving the overall appearance of Newark's neighborhoods through their participation in a collaborative venture designed to foster greater community involvement in keeping Newark clean.

As part of Mayor Sharpe James' initiative to improve the quality of life for Newark residents, Marshall Cooper, director of Newark's Neighborhood Services, and Harold Lucas, executive director of the NHA, implemented the new venture in which the Housing Authority is augmenting its present building maintenance workforce by hiring public housing residents to assist the NHA's grounds maintenance staff in and around the NHA's 35 complexes. The city is providing special garbage pickup to help facilitate the "Partners in Pride" program.

"We think it's the responsibility of every citizen to keep the city clean, and as good citizens and neighbors we will do our part to keep our housing complexes as clean as possible," said Mr. Lucas. "We can't expect the sanitation department, with limited resources, to clean up everybody's litter and debris. So we will do the best we can and hope that other citizens and neighborhood groups will do likewise."

The unprecedented partnership between the city and the NHA was applauded by Mr. Cooper. "The Housing Authority has set an example of citizen involvement that might serve to galvanize other residents in our city," he said. "We will work with the Housing Authority to schedule pickup to help expedite its site cleanup efforts."

The program, which began this past June, was scheduled to run for 13 weeks, seven days a week and conclude in September. However, because of the success of the program, it was extended throughout the fall to continue providing services to the community.

"During the spring and summer months, trash and garbage seems to increase with more people enjoying the outdoors," said Mr. Lucas. "Our regular maintenance schedule can't always keep our grounds litter-free and, by increasing the personnel and the hours of clean up, we can be more effective in keeping the complexes clean."

"Moreover, we are optimistic that when residents help to maintain the grounds, they will serve as an example and exert peer pressure on their fellow residents and neighbors to help reduce the amount of litter and maintain their sites as well. It's an idea we have implemented jointly with the city and we think it will be beneficial to everyone."

He noted that the NHA residents have been hired under the NHA's "Partners in Pride" program. Their duties not only involve NHA sites and perimeter cleanup, but also encompass common real estate areas, sidewalks, gutters, vacant lots and opposite sides of the street in areas adjacent to NHA complexes.

## NHA'S NEW CHAIRPERSON



Doris McGray Crank  
... the NHA's new chairperson

**D**oris McGray Crank's meteoric rise to the top has been no less meteoric than outstanding. The Newark Housing Authority (NHA) Board of Commissioners has elected Mrs. Crank to serve as chairperson of the seven-member body which oversees the operations of the NHA. She succeeds Rolando Velazquez as head of the Board of Commissioners.

In 1992, after petitioning Mayor Sharpe James and the NHA Board of Commissioners for more tenant representation, Commissioner Crank was subsequently appointed by Mayor James to the board, marking the resumption of her quest, albeit in a different arena, to improve living conditions and the quality of life for public housing residents.

A native of Newark and a resident of public housing for the past 29 years, Commissioner Crank is a longstanding community activist whose elevation to the commissioner post was based on her deep conviction that no one could represent the views of public housing residents better than one of their own.

For many years, she has played a prominent role in advocating for the rights of residents, having served as vice

president of the Newark Tenants Council, Inc. (NTC), an organization that represents public housing residents throughout the city and as tenant president of New Horizon Gardens and at Mt. Pleasant Estates where she currently resides. Several years ago, Commissioner Crank parlayed her love of singing and interest in joining an organized group into helping the NHA establish the Voices of Hope Mass Choir, which is considered one of the finest ensembles in the city. Commissioner Crank also helps to manage the business affairs of the 60-member body, of which she serves as president.

As she leads the NHA board into the 21st century, Commissioner Crank said that her focus will be on creating "home ownership opportunities for NHA residents and promoting resident entrepreneurship and businesses in NHA housing communities."

Commissioner Crank also asserted that over the past several years, she has witnessed the relationship between the NHA and the NTC "change drastically for the best." She added, "Both the NHA and the NTC have mutually benefitted from the improved relationship, which is much more solidified than it has ever been."

For his part, NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas extended his personal congratulations to Commissioner Crank and expressed optimism for the future growth of the NHA under the new board leadership.

"We have worked together long and arduously to greatly improve the NHA and the quality of life for our residents. I know that the future will be even brighter as we continue to work collegially for the benefit of the NHA and its residents," Mr. Lucas said.



Seventeen students who live in Newark Housing Authority (NHA) family complexes smile in appreciation of having been awarded college scholarships by the NHA Scholarship Foundation recently. Since its inception in 1988, the Foundation has provided financial assistance to 144 college-bound students representing all NHA family complexes as a way of helping to offset some of their college expenses. This year's award recipients are (left to right, first row) Kamelah Williams, Baxter Terrace; Jessica Nichols and Fatimah Jones, Baxter Terrace; Fatima Ruff, New Horizons Gardens; Aracelis Ortiz, Walsh Homes; (second row) Brenda Goodlett and Nephthys Armstrong, Stella Wright Homes; Mahalia Melton, Stella Wright Homes; Nyeshia Johnson, New Horizons Gardens; Shabidah Brown, Stephen Crane Village. Also (third row) Lare Jamaica Tuiter, New Horizons Gardens; Tamika Odum, Stella Wright Homes; Jocelyne Martinez, Woodlawn Village; Nyeshia Johnson, New Horizons Gardens; Nyleema Tyler, Stella Wright Homes; (fourth row) William Burford, Jr., Baxter Terrace; and Fuquan Jackson, Stella Wright Homes. Not shown are Manuel Gantila, Stephen Crane Village; Brian Evans, Stella Wright Homes; and Tashia Meggett, Oscar B. Miles Village.



The Newark Housing Authority (NHA) recently participated in the Columbus Day Parade where a group of young ladies who live in NHA complexes demonstrated to spectators an Italian folk dance called the Tarantella. The NHA had more than 300 participants in the 1997 parade.



Despite a relentless rain, the spirits of the NHA's Voices of Hope Mass Choir as well as those of many youngsters representing NHA family complexes and the NHA's Color Guard Unit were in no way dampened during their participation in Newark's African-American Heritage Parade.



Members of the NHA's Broadway Village's Drill Team "Diamonds in the Buff" (left) and the "Tainos" (right), wearing traditional Indian clothing to symbolize the Indians who are indigenous to Puerto Rico, give riveting performances as they march toward the viewing stand during Newark's Puerto Rican Day Parade.



NHA Commissioner Doris McInay Grant (s. r.), Mary Rute, president of the Newark Tenants Council, Inc. and NHA Commissioners Ida Clark and then Chairperson Rolando Velazquez share a special moment with Vivian O. Alston, 70 (center), who was honored by the Newark Housing Authority as well as by members of her family and friends for achieving the distinction of "Honorary Executive Director." The program, which culminated in a luncheon held in Mrs. Alston's honor, featured the presentation of a proclamation and gifts to Mrs. Alston by NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas. A resident of NHA's Terrell Homes, Mrs. Alston, whose designation represents the first time in six years that an NHA resident was selected to serve in the honorary position, was awarded the title for being named one of the top contestants in the Newark Citywide Living Legacy Fashion Extravaganza, sponsored annually by the NHA, the City of Newark and a host of other businesses and community organizations.



Approximately 35 girls and boys who live at the NHA's Hyatt Court and New Horizons Gardens honed their basketball skills while enhancing their growth and development during their participation in a basketball camp administered by Barringer High School at the Rafael Hernandez School in Newark, and funded by the NHA's Drug Elimination Program. The DEP, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is designed to help combat social ills in public housing while engaging young people in positive, life-affirming experiences. As part of the program, the NHA is scheduled to provide drug education and prevention activities and tutorial assistance for the youngsters during the school year. Dawn Miles, of the NHA's DEP, coordinates the NHA's participation in sports and other enrichment activities under the direction of Dalton Barrett, director.



New Jersey Boating Commissioner Larry Hazzard (left) and Newark Housing Authority employee and New Jersey Boating Inspector Freddie Johnson join host Harold Lucas on Newark Cablevision's "Newark Housing Update" in a discussion on boating history in Newark and Mr. Lucas' plan to develop a structured boating program for NHA youth. Director Lucas also hosted Myles Varley, executive director of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Newark, and Farches Wingate, Newark district director of the Boy Scouts of America, who enlightened viewers on youth programs at their respective agencies.



As part of a joint neighborhood beautification project with Valley National Bank and the Silver Lake Beautification Committee, the maintenance staff at the Newark Housing Authority's (NHA) Stephen Crane Village improved the Silver Lake neighborhood by creating a park in memory of Ann Kearney, a former NHA housing manager who recently passed away. The maintenance team devoted its time and labor and painted murals, bradford pear trees, weeping cherry and pine oaks, in addition to azaleas and flowering arbutus, which were provided by the NHA. Pictured are (front row, front left) Christina Molina, NHA secretary, Carol Robinson, NHA housing manager, Marie Strunzolo-Barke, president, Silver Lake Civic Association, Angela Cuaazo-Zera, chairman of the beautification committee, and Phyllis Scangillo, committee member. Second row, from left, are NHA maintenance crew John Jackson, Earl Siddiq, Karim Ali, supervisor Ricky Williams, Sharrif Olson, Anthony Varner, Lavern Scott and Earl J. Breitkopf.

## NHA BRIEFS.....

- The Newark Housing Authority (NHA) recently afforded seniors the chance to enjoy the camaraderie of their peers and live music and showcase their sense of style at the Ninth Annual Newark Citywide Senior Citizen's Fashion and Cultural Extravaganza. The NHA, which co-sponsored the event, provided transportation services which was coordinated by the Public Relations Department and the Family Services Division. As is the tradition, the NHA will honor one of the top contestants who participated in the fashion show.
- Hats off to Sidney Travis, senior accountant, Dorothea Lee, supervisor, Tenant Selection, Leroy Metz, chief field representative/property improvement, and Joseph Mennella, director of Personnel, who were sworn in as commissioners of the Newark Commission on Veterans Affairs by the Newark City Clerk's staff during a ceremony in the mayor's office. Ms. Lee and Mr. Mennella have served the commission for six years, respectively, while Mr. Metz and Mr. Travis are new members.
- Kudos to the Newark Housing Authority's own Jimmy Parrillo, Public Relations Department, who was honored by the Portuguese American Congress Political Committee for his "lifetime commitment to the city of Newark." Mr. Parrillo was presented with a plaque in recognition of his many years of service to Newark residents through his affiliation with the NHA and the Jimmy Parrillo Civic Association.
- The NHA's Windell Wilson and Curtis Grayson, Personnel, Faith Wiley, Family and Community Services, have ample reason to be proud these days. Mr. Wilson's son, Jamal, a recent graduate of Amherst College who played the position of guard on its basketball team, reached the 1,000-point milestone and holds the distinction of being the 11th player in Amherst's history to achieve that mark. Darryl Wiley, a schoolteacher and program coordinator for the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) in the Pittsburgh public school system, was awarded a grant and an expense-paid trip to New York City in recognition of his outstanding ability to engage students in the learning process by the NFTE at its gala awards dinner in New York. An accomplished artist, Burnett Curtis Grayson, III's works have been showcased in several shows and exhibits, and most recently in an exhibit entitled, "Rhythms and Movements" at the New Jersey Institute of Technology during its observance of African Heritage Month. He has also created his own company, Kemetix Expressions, which is designed to uplift, educate and change the negative artistic images of the African American experience.
- NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas was named president of the Newark Public Library Board of Trustees. He also serves as a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Essex Council, United Way of Essex and West Hudson Counties and as Chairman of Newark Symphony Hall.
- Now in its fifth year, the NHA Voices of Hope Mass Choir has installed new officers for the 60-plus member organization at a ceremony at the Newark Terrace Ballroom that was replete with stirring gospel singing, delectable foods and an awards presentation. The new officers of the choir, which is comprised of NHA residents and employees, are NHA Chairperson Doris McCray Crank, president; Joyce Bailey, Redevelopment, vice president; Kathy Wilson, treasurer, Sharon Gibson, secretary, NHA Commissioner Ida Clark, chaplain; James Young, business agent; Marie Jennings, sergeant-at-arms; and Edmund Duke Griffin, musical director. Harold Lucas, executive director, Gloria Curry-Williams, director, family services, Charles Bell, affirmative action, and Yvonne Reynolds, public relations, were recognized for their service to and support of the choir. The choir also recognized the contributions of NHA Chairperson Doris McCray Crank and Edmund Duke Griffin by presenting them with awards.
- Residents of all ages participated in a drug-free rally at Pennington Court that featured several speakers, including Bertice Berry of USA Live Cable TV, the Newark Police Department's Special Task Force on Drug Elimination and recovering substance abusers. The program was sponsored by the 21 Club and led by Rev. L. Ronald Durham, pastor of First Mt. Zion Baptist Church, which "adopted" the complex several years ago as part of the NHA's initiative to involve the clergy community in its efforts to provide meaningful opportunities that help empower residents and improve their lives.

(continued on page 12)



Walter Green (left), a resident at Branch Brook Manor, is joined by Gloria Curry-Williams, director of the NHA's Family Services Division, and runner-up, Aitch Hamford, of Stephen Crane Elderly, as he proudly displays his prized trophy symbolizing his victory in the championship of the senior division during the NHA's first-ever billiards tournament. The winner in the junior division was Jackie Lanier, Stephen Crane Elderly, whose performance was challenged by Elijian Morales, of Baxter Elderly. The NHA, under the direction of the Family Services, coordinated the tournament for residents who competed in either the senior or junior division during the run-offs at their respective sites. In addition to billiards, the NHA also provides an array of recreational activities for seniors and youth, including overnight camp experiences, film outings, a charter fishing program, golf instruction and track and field. The NHA is sponsoring several tournaments for seniors in the upcoming months, including card games, checkers, dominoes, and chess.

## NHA BRIEFS (continued from page 11)

• NHA residents Dayronne Parker, Patsy Pringle-Lewis, Michelle Smith and Darlene Wall, Felix Fuld, and Estelle Knight and Intisar Muhammad, New Horizons, are on the path to career success, having successfully completed the CPR for the Professional Rescuer course and been awarded their CPR certification. Sponsored by the NHA's Drug Elimination Program (DEP) and administered by the American Red Cross of Metropolitan New Jersey, the training was provided to give residents a chance to acquire job skills and served as a prerequisite for the emergency medical technician certification. Many NHA residents also received free computer training as part of the NHA's DEP. The training was held at Pennington Court, Felix Fuld Court, Hyatt Court, New Horizon Gardens and Stephen Crane Village.

• Hundreds of seniors who live in NHA senior complexes joined seniors at the NHA's James C. White Manor where its tenants association and 80-Plus Program, hosted a variety of activities in commemoration of National Senior Citizens Month. The presentations ranged from gospel singing and a kitchen "klatch" to a video showing and a fashion and talent show. Sponsored by Councilmen George Branch and Anthony Carrino and facilitated by the NHA, which provided transportation for the seniors, the program featured Councilwomen Mildred Crump and Gayle Chaneyfield, Councilman Ronald L. Rice and Judge Irvin Booker.

• Several youngsters who live at the NHA's Hyatt Court recently advanced to the finals in the All Stars Talent Show Network, a New York-based anti-violence program designed to provide inner-city youngsters with uplifting and constructive alternatives to negative influences. The program, which began in the South Bronx in 1984, visited Newark where the NHA's Hyatt Court Chorus, comprising a group of 11 performers between the ages of 6 and 8 years old, was among the featured acts vying for a chance to participate in the finals to be held in New York. The NHA's participation was coordinated by its Drug Elimination Program, in cooperation with the Hyatt Court Tenants Association.

• Tasha Meggett, a resident of the NHA's Oscar Miles Village, was awarded a book scholarship by the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women during its annual program. A graduate of Central High School, Ms. Meggett is studying biomedical engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The Commission is dedicated to promoting the empowerment of women.

• NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas was honored at the 100 Most Influential awards celebration, sponsored by City News Publishing Company recently at the Airport Marriott Hotel. Mr. Lucas was recognized as one of the 100 "most influential" for his contributions to rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities and particularly for his efforts to "make a real difference in the quality of Black life in New Jersey."



As part of the NHA's continuing efforts to inform the community about its efforts to significantly enhance the availability of quality, affordable housing and plans to address other quality of life issues, Harold Lucas (second from left) was featured in a one-hour informative, national public affairs program entitled "Our Voices." Hosted by Beverly Smith and produced by Black Entertainment Television, the program also included HUD Assistant Secretary Kevin Marchman (far left) and David Gilmore (right), executive director of the Washington, D.C. Housing Authority. The show was aired nationally this past May and rebroadcast in September.



Harold Lucas is draped in a hand-woven silk Indonesian shawl, which represents "strong men of courage." The shawl and a small boxed sword, depicting a symbol of Java, were gifts from the 28-person Indonesian delegation which toured the NHA in September. The group included mayors of several important mid-sized Indonesian cities as well as the Deputy Mayor of Jakarta (the capital city) and 10 *Boiparis* (boopah-ri), administrative heads of a district of 1 to 2 million people. The government officials, here to learn about a variety of issues such as public and private partnerships, community empowerment, staff management and customer service, described their NHA visit as "the most exciting program" on their U.S. tour. "You made them feel so special and they responded with a lot of questions, unlike other stops on their tour," said Marcia Burick of the Institute for Training and Development, in commenting to Mr. Lucas.



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Release On Or After  
May 8, 1998**

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### **NHA HERALDS CONSTRUCTION START OF 96 NEW TOWNHOUSES**

NEWARK, May 8--The Newark Housing Authority's (NHA) ongoing transformation of public housing in the city of Newark continued its inexorable drive toward constructing nearly 2,500 new townhouse units as it heralded the construction start of 96 new townhouses to be located in the lower Clinton Hill Section of the Central Ward.

"These 96 new townhouses represent another manifestation of the NHA's commitment to provide quality, affordable housing to the city and residents of public housing," said Harold Lucas, executive director of the NHA.

"We, the NHA, have been recognized nationally for the extraordinary progress we have made in new construction here in Newark, and it makes you proud to know that all of your efforts have resulted in our becoming the model for changing the face and attitude of public housing in this country," Lucas continued.

He pointed out that the new units, which are 10 percent larger than previous developments, will be located on five sites bounded by Irvine Turner Boulevard and Bergen Street, east and west, and Avon and Madison Avenues, north and south.

The development, technically named NJ2-46, will consist of 67 three-bedrooms, 24 four-bedrooms and 5 five-bedrooms. Among the 96 units, there will be six units designed for the physically challenged. Additionally, a community/management/maintenance building will be constructed.

The developer is Belle Meade/Newark Development Corporation of Far Hills, New Jersey, and the total development cost is \$10.3 million. The project is scheduled to be completed in 14 months.

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